Colonial North Carolina

Did you know that the land we call North Carolina was originally called Virginia? and Carolana? Also Carolina? Learn about the peoples who were here before any Europeans arrived as well as the many groups of colonists who arrived in this land from 1585 through the 1700s. How was this land governed? What was life like here? What did people eat and wear and how did they play? Explore these and many other topics to find connections between colonial times and your life today.

In this educational packet:

- Read the "Settling North Carolina" information excerpt from the Colonial and American Revolution History-In-a-Box kit.
- Discover Colonial clothing pages—you can color them, too!
- Pockets were separate pieces of clothing in Colonial times. A women or girl tied a pocket around her waist, beneath her petticoat and skirt. Use our pattern to create your own paper version of a Colonial pocket.
- Explore North Carolina's colonial seat of government by watching "VIPs at Tryon Palace: LIVE!" Follow along with the "upstairs, downstairs" style tour with our watch guide.

Settling North Carolina

Welcome to Virginia! Wait—what?

Remember that the land we now call North Carolina was originally named "Virginia" in honor of Elizabeth, the English unmarried queen. In the late 1500s, England played "catch-up" with the Spanish by seeking to claim and colonize lands in the New World. England's Elizabeth gave a charter to Walter Raleigh, and his explorers claimed lands in honor of their Virgin Queen. While Raleigh's colonies did not survive, the English persevered. Some 20 years after his final colony was "lost," the colony of Jamestown was founded in 1607. This colony was established by a group of London businessmen whose charter was granted by James I—Elizabeth's successor after her death in 1603. The Virginia Company chose for the colony to be established on the Chesapeake Bay. The people in Jamestown struggled for survival, and more than half died during the first winter. Even after reinforcements were sent, only some 60 of the 500 people survived the "starving times" of the winter of 1609.

Why didn't the colonists just go home?

The Jamestown settlers decided to leave in the spring of 1610, but then reinforcements—more settlers and supplies—arrived from England. Slowly, more people began to live than die in Jamestown. In 1612 colonist John Rolfe began to grow tobacco. Tobacco was a crop that sold well in England and gave the colony, ironically, a reason to "live." While they had not found gold, silver, or a route to the Orient, these colonists found a crop that grew well and sold well. In 1619 the need for ever more workers for this labor-intensive crop led to the arrival of the first enslaved Africans to Virginia. Plantations began to flourish, and the landowners of Jamestown bought as much land as possible. One reason for this was that tobacco quickly wore out the land. They also purchased land to reduce competition from other farmers. New arrivals to the colony and men freed from their service of indenture found it increasingly difficult to obtain land. Some began to look to the lands south of Jamestown—to the newly chartered land of "Carolana."

It's "Carolana"; not "Carolina."

Carolana was the name given by Charles I to the southern part of North America in a charter granted to Sir Robert Heath in 1629. Charles I was the successor to James I, and Heath was the attorney general to the king. "Carolana" is from the Latin form of Charles. Because the extent of the continent was unknown, the charter gave Heath sole proprietorship to a swath of land that extended for thousands of miles. The land granted was from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean between 31- and 36-degrees north latitude. This charter was interesting not only because of the enormity of the grant, but also because it spelled out some ideas that became central to the

beliefs of the people who came to live here. The charter referred to maintaining the rights of the people regarding their property and rights at trial, as was true for English people. A later charter of 1663 reiterated these rights. Laws made were to:

> be reasonable, and not repugnant or contrary, but as near as may be, agreeable to the laws and statutes of this our kingdom of England, and so as the same ordinances do not extend to the binding, charging, or taking away of the right or interest of any person or persons, in their freehold, goods, or chattels whatsoever.

Still, there wasn't a flood of settlers coming to Carolana, because it was difficult to get here. Sailing your ship to Carolana, avoiding the shifting shoals of the Outer Banks, navigating the changing inlets past the barrier islands, and finding deep waters close to shore made "parking" your ship here quite a challenge. Sir Robert Heath's charter was unused, and turmoil in England kept others from their chance at managing settlement here for some years.

Turmoil in England?

For centuries people had believed that a country could have only one religion. For many, many years, Europe and England had been Roman Catholic, until England pulled away from that faith and created the Protestant Church of England in the 1500s. Religious tolerance was not practiced, and the monarch expected the country to follow the faith of the ruler.

In 1642 England's Parliament was led by Puritans—Protestants who believed in basic forms of worship and government. The Puritans raised forces and overthrew the monarch, Charles I, and his supporters. After Charles's execution in 1649, England was ruled first by a Puritan Parliament, then by Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell. Cromwell's rule ended with his death in 1658. During this time, there was no English investment in colonization, and unrest continued in England. After Cromwell's death, forces loyal to the monarchy "restored" the son of Charles to the throne, as Charles II, in 1660.

What did all this mean for Carolana, or Virginia, for that matter?

More colonists. During the tumultuous years leading up to the English Civil War, thousands of people left England. Many headed for the colonies, mostly to Virginia. And, while England fought a civil war, the colonists here ruled themselves. In Jamestown the Virginia Company had lost its charter in 1624, after failing to earn a profit for its investors. Virginia then became a royal colony, under direct control of the king. Before that time, the Virginia Company had established a House of Burgesses in 1619, to improve the colony's governance. Fifteen representatives of the 22 members were elected to the Burgesses. While James I planned to disband this representative form of government, he died before doing so. Representational government became engrained for the colonists of Virginia.

Proprietary and royal colonies, huh?

Colonies were organized in different ways:

- Charter colonies: organized by groups of economic investors or by those seeking to create a place where they could follow their own religious beliefs. They were given a document called a charter by the ruler, which gave them partial political control over the colony. The charters guaranteed the same rights to colonists that Englishmen had at home.
- Proprietary colonies: organized by one or several individuals who "owned" the colony.
- Crown colonies: organized as direct possessions of the monarch.

North Carolina has been all three. Charters were given to Sir Walter Raleigh, the Virginia Company, and Sir Robert Heath. Charles II gave proprietary ownership to eight supporters, and later North Carolina became a royal colony when most of the proprietors sold their interests to the Crown in 1729.

Many people were coming over from England, but did anyone settle here?

Yes, finally. By the 1650s, land in Virginia was becoming scarce. "Scarce land" in a huge unsettled area doesn't really make sense unless you understand that Virginia had become tied to the economic engine of tobacco. Every new settler and every indentured person who paid off his debt and claimed his "head right" (the land owed for completing the period of indenture) started growing tobacco. This increased supply forced prices down. Wealthy landowners bought as much land as they could, hoping to keep others from farming it. Colonists were forced to go westward for land but encountered potentially hostile Indian tribes and could not find a way to transport their crops to market. People began to look southward, past the swamps, toward Carolina.

Although many settlers were pushed here from Virginia because of extensive use of land there for tobacco, they wanted to plant tobacco in their new lands. They were eager for the profits that tobacco brought to the colonists in Virginia. However, selling tobacco from North Carolina was very different from selling it from Virginia. Just as it was hard to get into Carolina from the sea, it was equally hard to get anything—like a crop—*out* of Carolina by sea. Getting past the shallow shoals and shifting sandbars made exporting a challenge. Travel overland to Virginia ports was also difficult—roads were nonexistent, the Great Dismal Swamp was in the way, and the transportation costs plus taxes decreased profits.

After the restoration of Charles II and his granting a charter to the Lord Proprietors, Carolina became somewhat "governed." Virginia colonists used this political separation between Virginia and Carolina as an opportunity to ban Carolina tobacco from being shipped through its ports, claiming it was inferior (thus protecting their own crops). The hazardous waters appealed to smugglers, however, and some planters had their crops shipped by New England men willing to bring in shallow-bottomed boats and take out the crop to Northern colonies illegally.

"Carolina"? Didn't you just say it was called "Carolana"?

After Charles II regained the throne in England, he rewarded many who had helped him in that effort. Eight members of the nobility, called lords, were granted the Carolana lands, now renamed Carolina in his honor, another variation of Charles. The two charters to this group of eight proprietors again gave an enormous amount of land: from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean and from the Albemarle region of North Carolina south to part of Florida. Although the Lord Proprietors had a charter for the land, controlling such an immense area would prove much more challenging. These eight men planned to reap profits from their colony by selling land and collecting "quitrents" or taxes on the land. They also hoped to export cotton, indigo, and sugar.

Who were these eight men?

You probably will recognize their last names, especially if you study a map of North Carolina. The eight Lord Proprietors were:

- Edward, Earl of Clarendon
- George, Duke of Albemarle
- William, Lord Craven
- John, Lord Berkeley
- Anthony, Lord Ashley
- Sir George Carteret
- Sir William Berkeley
- Sir John Colleton

It is useful to remember that England at this time was a monarchy—the king ruled. And while there was a Parliament, which allowed for nobles and people to have some say, Parliament met only when the king called it to session. Power and rights flowed down—from the king to nobles, lords, and lower "levels" of people. Putting yourself into this world helps make sense of a proprietary colony. The charter given to these eight men not only gave them the land, but also gave them the right to "rule." Their plan was to set up an essentially medieval form of life in the Carolina colony. In 1669 they adopted the Fundamental Constitution of Carolina, which established hereditary nobility using the new titles of "cazique" and "landgrave." They expected a serf class of people, to be known as "leetman," to work the land and to be tied to it because they could not leave without permission. The proprietors expected to be paid quitrents—essentially a property tax—for land sold or granted.

What happened to all these new nobles and serfs?

Of course, "saying" and "doing" are often two different things, and so it was for the Lord Proprietors. The rough lands of Carolina and the struggle for survival here did not lend themselves to the formation of a feudal society. The lack of ready communication and resources from the proprietors also made it a challenge to implement their plans. Though land was readily available, people were already here. In the Albemarle region, settlers had already established themselves and

were not open to having such a system placed upon them, and American Indians had no concept of or desire for a feudal style of life.

American Indian understanding of land usage and ownership differed from that of the European settlers. For most American Indians, using a piece of land established ownership; but when it was not in use, it was no longer owned by that person or tribe and anyone could use it. The settlers believed in owning a piece of land permanently, whether in use or not. This difference in world views would trouble colonial and Indian relations for years to come.

Where did settlers first live?

Remember the Jamestown settlement in the colony of Virginia? Decades before the Lord Proprietors were given the charter to Carolina, Captain John Smith had sent men here looking for the Roanoke colonists in 1608. The Roanoke settlers were not found. By the 1650s settlers seeking land from the Jamestown colony pushed south into the Albemarle region. They came to the area south of the Great Dismal Swamp and east of the Chowan River more as an extension of the Virginia colony than with any ambition to be in Carolana. Still, this region was too far removed from Jamestown to be governed by the authorities there, and there was a vacuum of governance in "Carolana" at that time. The Albemarle region was a good place to go if you needed land but did not want to pay taxes, or if you were enslaved or an indentured servant looking for a place to run.

The 1657 map of "The south part of Virginia, now the north part of Carolina" shows an *individual's* home—a house belonging to Nathaniell Batts—the first permanent settler to North Carolina (as far as we know). In 1655 Batts moved to the area and opened a trading post on the southwestern bank of the Pasquotank River. In 1660 he bought the land where his house was located from King Kiscutanewh of the Weapemeoc tribe for a "valuable consideration in hand received." This is the first land grant on record for North Carolina (although it was filed in Virginia).

What else did settlers do?

Besides growing corn, everyone's staple crop, there were also settlements and towns being built. The proprietors had the governor of Carolina (situated in Charles Towne) appoint a deputy governor for the northern region of the colony. Knowing the independent streak of the settlers, they appointed local men over the years to this post, producing a period of stability that encouraged settlement to expand. New settlers seeking land came south from Virginia past Pamlico Sound and continued onward past the Neuse River. Merchants, tradespeople, and lawyers came to Carolina, too. Many settled in the village of Roanoke on the Albemarle Sound. Edenton (named after Governor Charles Eden) was eventually incorporated in 1722—it was called Queen Anne's Town before that. This town became the political and commercial center of the Albemarle region, but more land was needed for incoming settlers, and they headed south.

In the Pamlico area, the earliest settlement was Bath Town, which was incorporated in 1706. Bath was the first town established in what was to become North Carolina. On the other side of the Neuse, between the North and Newport Rivers, was a split of land seemingly ideal for a seaport. In

1713 a plan for Beaufort Town was drawn up in honor of proprietor the Duke of Beaufort. These towns enjoyed access to the sea and the bountiful fish caught there. Residents often turned to fishing and its by-product boatbuilding for trade. In Beaufort, shipbuilding especially became profitable for townsfolk. Even today, the community of Harkers Island (located near Beaufort) is still known for its boatbuilding craftsmanship. These coastal Carolina communities were settled primarily by Virginians and other colonists heading south. One "new" Carolina community was laid out by an explorer heading north.

Who headed north, from where?

Meet John Lawson, naturalist and explorer. In 1700, at the age of 25, John Lawson sailed to Charles Towne in the colony of Carolina. Schooled at Gresham College in London, Lawson studied mathematics and natural science. Lawson planned an expedition to the New World, and before he left London, he agreed to collect specimens for James Petiver, an apothecary and botanist.

On December 28, 1700, Lawson left Charles Towne and headed north on a journey of around 550 miles (he claimed 1,000 miles, as noted in the title of his book describing the trip). His travels took him through the backcountry of Carolina, where he collected specimens and met many American Indians. The entire time he noted and labeled many specimens, sending them back to London. Lawson finished his trek at the mouth of the Pamlico River on February 24, 1701. He settled near land he would eventually own and help survey, creating the town of Bath. Bath was incorporated on March 8, 1706—the first

town incorporated in what would become North Carolina. By 1708 Lawson became the surveyor-general of the colony on behalf of the Lord Proprietors. That same year he returned to London, seeking investors in his businesses and writing a book about his travels. *A New Voyage to Carolina* was published in 1709 and contains amazing descriptions of the places and people he met.

Lawson was finished with Carolina?

Not at all. Lawson also surveyed and helped establish another new town, New Bern, near the Neuse River for Baron von Graffenried, who bought the land to establish a settlement for Swiss settlers. This town was only new to the settlers, as it was built on an existing Tuscarora community, Chattoka.

The Tuscarora?

The Tuscarora were an American Indian tribe who probably settled in the area in the 1400s and farmed peas, corn, squash, and other vegetables in addition to tobacco, which they grew for ceremonial purposes. They also hunted and maintained orchards. The Tuscarora acted as middlemen between other tribes and settlers wanting to trade, a powerful position they enjoyed. Then, in 1710, Lawson sited the town of New Bern on their town of Chattoka.

Why build there?

While Lawson's attitude toward the Native peoples was generally one of respect for their knowledge of the natural world, he maintained a European's understanding toward indigenous people's land rights. Von Graffenried had title to the land, excellently sited at the confluence of the Neuse and Trent Rivers, and Lawson saw it as legal. The land was purchased from the Lords Proprietors, who, along with other settlers, generally did not recognize Indians' rights to the land.

What happened next?

Lawson underestimated the extent of the Tuscarora's desperation. They had been enslaved, their lands taken, and their numbers reduced by European diseases. In September of 1711, Lawson, von Graffenried, and two enslaved men headed out of New Bern traveling up the Neuse River looking for its source. They were captured by the Tuscarora and taken to the village of Catechna (present day Pitt County). According to von Graffenried, after a trial the Tuscarora released the men. By that time, von Graffenried reported, some Coree Indians (related to the Tuscarora) arrived, and Lawson argued with their chief, Cor Tom. Both Lawson and von Graffenried were to be killed, but von Graffenried was spared after convincing them of his ties to the English queen. The enslaved men were released. Lawson was killed. What was the argument about? Details are lost, but it is probable that the Tuscarora knew of Lawson's connection to New Bern and held him responsible for the loss of their land there and saw these men as representative of all the changes that hurt their people.

The Indians were pretty bad, weren't they?

Remember, in history, perspective is everything. As with much of history, there is not a purely "good" side or a "bad" side. From the moment exploration and settlement began, the local populations of American Indians were affected. Disease brought by the Europeans killed hundreds of thousands, wiping out entire villages and forcing some tribes to merge to survive. Over time settlements of colonists pushed Indians off their traditional hunting and planting grounds. Trade with settlers introduced alcohol and weapons they had not used before. The woods were emptied of deer and other animals as settlers wiped out local populations for skin trade. Europeans also enslaved Indians, a practice that caused great distress.

The Tuscarora sought to relocate their whole tribe to the Susquehanna region of Pennsylvania. At this time, the government of Pennsylvania required a certificate of "good behavior" before allowing the Tuscarora to move. Unable to secure this certificate, the Tuscarora were denied this chance for a peaceful new homeland. They chose to try to regain their lands by eliminating the settlers.

How did they plan to eliminate the settlers?

With a war! Lawson's death was the opening round on their war on the settlers. On September 22, 1711, the Tuscarora attacked the European settlements on the Neuse and Pamlico Rivers. Around 130 men, women, and children were killed. With crops damaged and livestock killed, the chance of colony failure was real. North Carolina was not organized enough to defend her colonists and called on neighbors Virginia and South Carolina for aid.

Hoping to take over Tuscarora-controlled trade routes and eager for more enslaved Indians, South Carolina sent troops and Yamassee warriors—American Indians who were hostile to the Tuscarora—to North Carolina's aid. Internal divisions within the Tuscarora combined with the attacks by South Carolina militia groups and enemy tribes eventually defeated the Tuscarora. Around 1,000 Tuscarora were captured and enslaved, and more than 1,400 were killed. The Indian survivors moved north, becoming the sixth and smallest of the Iroquois League of Nations. First described by Moravians, it is not known exactly when this confederation of Indian tribes formed. The Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, and Mohawk tribes of what became New York had a pact that allowed for decision-making, shared concerns, and agreement not to war against each other. Settlement in the Tuscarora's former lands continued.

Was that the end of the war—Wait! Did you say "South" Carolina?

The war officially ended with a treaty in 1715. Other incidents between settlers in the Albemarle along with the Tuscarora War convinced the proprietors that they did indeed have two colonies: North and South Carolina. In 1712 the large and diverse colony of Carolina officially became North Carolina and South Carolina.

What did the end of war mean for this area?

The removal of the Tuscarora opened the area to greater settlement. And in the area of the Cape Fear, geography played its part. The plentiful pines of the Cape Fear region, as well as the arrival of South Carolina settlers and their enslaved people, helped develop this part of the colony. In the 1700s Britain paid a bonus to colonial suppliers of naval stores (turpentine, tar, and pitch needed to keep their growing naval and commercial fleet afloat) to seek independence from foreign suppliers. South Carolina colonists quickly took advantage of this market and began seeking more pine forests. These colonists moved to the untapped region of North Carolina's Cape Fear; bringing enslaved workers who did the arduous work of "boxing" trees, burning lightwood for tar, and making pitch. The enslaved people also brought with them the knowledge of growing rice; thus, the swampy lands of the area were cleared, and rice was planted, flooded, harvested, and hand-polished by slaves.

This area of the colony grew to have a population of some 2,000 enslaved people and 1,000 settlers by 1742. It was in this area that Roger Moore, brother of Maurice and founder of Brunswick, built a home, which over time became Orton Plantation. In 1750, some 250 enslaved people lived at Orton. While slave ships arrived directly to North Carolina at times, many enslaved people were brought overland from Virginia and South Carolina. The Cape Fear region had the largest enslaved

population in North Carolina for some years. Interestingly, the swampy area in the north part of the colony (the Great Dismal Swamp) served as a refuge for many enslaved people who escaped from Virginia. The difficulties of navigating that area remain to this day—and for many years it served as a place where some former slaves lived rough, but free, lives.

Did any other settlers come to North Carolina through the Cape Fear port?

Yes, they did—especially Highlanders from Scotland. In the early 1730s, a few came to North Carolina and sent word back home of the readily available land and of the freedoms here. In the following years, many others joined them. In Scotland, uprisings against the English government in 1715 and 1745 led to harsh reprisals. Changes in the clan system of government led to high rents for Scottish farmers. Changes in farming techniques and improvements in disease control (inoculations for smallpox) helped the Scottish population to grow, which meant a need for more land. These factors, combined with the good "word of mouth" about this colony, led thousands of Highland Scots to settle along the Cape Fear River, specifically in present-day Fayetteville, then called Cross Creek. Perhaps as many as 10,000 Highlanders settled around the Cape Fear River area by the time of the American Revolution.

With a good port at Cape Fear, did ships avoid the Outer Banks?

Ships seeking to avoid *detection* did not avoid the Outer Banks. In the early 1700s, Britain worked hard to "clean up" Barbados, an island in the Caribbean Sea that traders used to resupply their ships. Pirates had used the island as a base of operations for years. Some chose to relocate their operations to the many coves, inlets, and isolated spots along the coast of North Carolina. Piracy at this time reached a type of "Golden Age" as legal piracy, or *privateering*, was encouraged by European monarchs, and illegal piracy was profitable for many.

Who were the pirates?

The best-known pirate who called North Carolina "home" was Blackbeard. Blackbeard is one of the world's most famous pirates, but what is *really* known about him is actually quite minimal. His name was probably Edward Teach or Thatch. He was most likely born in England around 1680. Perhaps he served in the British navy and worked as a privateer.

In November 1717, Blackbeard captured the French ship *La Concorde*, a slave ship. Renamed by Blackbeard as *Queen Anne's Revenge* (QAR), the ship was armed with up to 40 cannons. After a winter of pirating, Blackbeard commanded four ships and some 300 pirates. Sailing up the coast of North America in May 1718, his pirate fleet blockaded the port of Charles Towne in South Carolina. He took ships and hostages and demanded ransom (which included medical supplies). Leaving Charles Towne, Blackbeard sailed toward North Carolina, where *Queen Anne's Revenge* was probably intentionally grounded at Beaufort. He marooned some of his pirate crew and left with all that could be carried on his last ship.

Then Blackbeard sailed to Bath, where he received a pardon from Governor Charles Eden. Pardons were one-time offers to become an honest person and not to be tried for previous crimes. Blackbeard's good behavior lasted but a few months; by the fall of 1718, he was back to piracy, bringing stolen goods to Ocracoke and selling them there.

Why didn't the North Carolina government arrest him?

Because pirated goods were nice to have and often sold at discount prices. It is probable that some North Carolina government officials were in business with pirates. A tunnel from the governor's house to the shore was located in later years, and other pirates confessed the business they did with officials. Some regular citizens enjoyed the goods that pirates could bring to the area. Remember how hard it was for trade goods to move through this land? However, Virginia's Governor Spotswood was not so happy with the pirates, who often stopped Virginia merchant ships.

In late November 1718, Virginia Governor Spotswood sent Royal Navy men under the direction of Lieutenant Robert Maynard to find Blackbeard. Maynard sailed to Ocracoke and found Blackbeard anchored there. As Maynard sailed closer to begin a battle, his ship stuck on a sandbar. Blackbeard and his men boarded the ship and were surprised when Maynard and other men appeared from belowdecks in a surprise attack. Blackbeard suffered some five musket shots and 20 sword cuts, which killed him. Maynard beheaded Blackbeard. As proof of his demise and a warning to others, Maynard hung Blackbeard's head from the front of his ship on its way back to Virginia.

Was Blackbeard the only pirate around?
Not at all. Many other pirates sailed the Atlantic and Caribbean, searching for prizes. Here are a couple of pirates with North Carolina connections:

- Stede Bonnet, the "Gentleman Pirate." Bonnet was an educated landowner from Barbados before turning to piracy. In October 1718, he was captured off the Cape Fear River and taken to Charles Towne, South Carolina. Bonnet and his men were tried, and most were found guilty. After a brief escape, Bonnet was hanged on December 10, 1718.
- Mary Harvey and her husband were sent to North Carolina as felons in 1725. Guilty of being debtors in England, they were sent as indentured servants to North Carolina to work off their debt. Instead of doing their indentured work, they turned to piracy, joining or forming a pirating group. A year later, they and some others were convicted of piracy. The men were hanged, but leniency was shown to Mary, who was allowed to live. Her husband, Thomas, the leader of the pirates, was not caught.

Pirates are gone; what's next?

We were crowned! Following Blackbeard's death, piracy slowed on the North Carolina coast. The removal of many of the Coastal Plain American Indians and some years of good government helped establish North Carolina and led to settlement opportunities. North Carolina's northern border was settled when a delegation of North Carolina and Virginia surveyors, led by

William Byrd II of Virginia, explored the boundary of the two colonies from the Outer Banks. North Carolina's boundary, as established by the Charter of King Charles II in 1665, remained in place.

In 1721 South Carolina had become a royal colony, and it was clear that the Lord Proprietors (and their heirs) had not succeeded in establishing a feudal fiefdom in North Carolina. In 1729 King George II acquired the right of government in North Carolina as well as the land rights of seven of the eight Lord Proprietors. Lord Granville maintained land rights to his share of North Carolina, until those were lost during the American Revolution. North Carolina was now a royal colony.

We're a royal colony; is it easier to settle now?

There is more than one way to enter North Carolina. The development of the Cape Fear region and the port there did allow for some settlers to come by sea without as much difficulty as earlier attempts to sail into the Roanoke area. Welsh and Scottish Highlanders came into North Carolina through the port in Wilmington. In the early 1700s, most settlers to North Carolina were of English descent. They or their parents had come to the New World, many as indentured servants, originally to Virginia. After working for the required seven years, they sought land and a fresh start away from any possible stigma of being indentured. In North Carolina, most settlers were small farmers, growing or raising enough food for their family; extra was sold or traded for profit. Settlers came overland from colonies to the north and from the south. By the 1730s, more settlers began to arrive from many places, including the Scottish Highlanders and Welsh settlers. As the Coastal Plain lands filled, the Piedmont or backcountry offered much fertile ground for settlement.

The Piedmont? The "backcountry"?

That's "foot of the mountain" to you. The Piedmont, from the French words for *foot* and *mountain* (*pied* and *montagne*), the region from the fall line to the Mountains, rises upward from the Coastal Plain and is known for its rolling hills. This area of North Carolina is about 200 miles wide. The "fall line" is the remnant of an ancient shoreline that formed many, many years ago when the sea was higher and further inland. This area is marked with waterfalls and rapids. While not visible except as an imaginary line drawn on maps, this fall line has played a major role in North Carolina's history.

For many years the fall line was a natural boundary for explorers, settlers, and tradesmen seeking to go east to west, or west to east in this region. Why? When water reaches the fall line, it falls. Travel from the coast up a river was doable for early explorers and settlers, but once they reached these falls, they stopped. They could go no farther without another form of transportation. The difficulty of traveling around the fall line encouraged settlers to create settlements at the point where travel became difficult. The fall line also played a big part in the economies (or lack thereof) in the lands beyond that region. Still, settlers wanted land and found paths to walk, ride, or pull a wagon on, to reach the fertile lands of the backcountry.

Paths? Wagons?

The American Indians had been moving around this land for centuries, and they helped create paths or trails connecting the regions of North Carolina with other regions containing tribes much farther away. One path, the Warrior's Path, used by American Indians in the region of Upstate New York, came all the way south to the Catawba villages in the area of present-day Charlotte. Over time part of this trail became used by settlers and was expanded and made into the Great Wagon Road. Today, Highway 81 in Virginia and Highway 220 in North Carolina generally follow this route.

Another path used by North Carolina American Indians was known as the Trading Path. Today, Highway 85 generally follows this route. Of course, no trail or path was truly singular. Each trail was actually a series of trails that connected streams and villages while avoiding falls or floods. Originally the trails were quite narrow, following the heel/toe style of walking practiced by the American Indians. These were widened by the wider style of walking used by Europeans, pack horses, and eventually wagons. When Rowan County was established in 1753, the town of Salisbury became the county seat. This town was built near the juncture of the Wagon Road and the Indian Trading Path.

Who was using these trails?

Many people, including the ones who helped make them—like the Tuscarora, many of whom traveled to New York to join the other Iroquoian nations. Other American Indians in North Carolina certainly used the trails, many to combine tribes weakened by disease and war—like the Eno, Saura, and Tutelo. These trails and paths also became the gateway into North Carolina for different groups of Europeans:

- English settlers, arriving from Virginia or coastal areas of North Carolina, settled in the Piedmont.
- Quakers, or members of the Society of Friends, settled here from other colonies, many of them in the area of present-day Guilford County.
- Scots-Irish followed the Wagon Road from Pennsylvania to the backcountry. These people from the lowland area of Scotland settled in Ireland in the early 1600s, and then some moved here for more freedom and new opportunities.
- German settlers came to the New World seeking fresh lands and freedom of religion. Groups of Moravians and Lutherans traveled to North Carolina in the mid-1700s, using the Wagon Road to the Piedmont.
- Enslaved Africans and other enslaved people were brought to the Piedmont overland from Virginia and South Carolina, as well as from the eastern part of the state.

That Wagon Road sounds like a major highway.

Not exactly. What we think of as a road and what the settlers used as a road are very different things. Remember, this "road" began as a very narrow trail and was expanded by feet, hooves, and wheels, slowly over time. There was no pavement, no signs, and no repair crews for the hundreds of miles of trails that traversed streams and rivers without bridges or sometimes even a good fording place. The journal of the Moravian Brothers provides astonishing descriptions of travel along this "highway," when they traveled from Pennsylvania to North Carolina.

What brothers?

The Moravian Brothers weren't actual brothers, but in their society, that is what single men were called. "Moravian" is the commonly known name for members of the Unity of Brethren (Unitas Fratrum). This religious group has its origins in ancient Bohemia and Moravia (present-day Czech Republic). The Moravian Church grew under the patronage of Count von Zinzendorf in Saxony in the 1700s. Moravian missionaries established a settlement in Pennsylvania in the 1740s, and other congregations spread to New Jersey and Maryland. Land became scarce in Pennsylvania for the growing Moravian population, and Bishop Augustus Spangenberg explored the backcountry of North Carolina as a possible settlement. In 1752 he traveled from eastern North Carolina to the Piedmont, exploring settlement lands. A huge tract of land, some 100,000 acres, was purchased and called Wachovia. Three Moravian communities were established here in the mid-1700s; Bethabara in 1753, Bethania in 1759, and Salem in 1766.

So, plenty of settlers in the Piedmont?

More and more people came this way, seeking the opportunities of owning land. Most of the settlers to the backcountry were farmers—who grew just enough to get by—with crops of corn and wheat. They usually had hogs, grew vegetables, and hunted for game. Because it was difficult to travel east toward the larger settlements, they were not motivated to grow cash crops. The lack of roads and navigable rivers kept them from becoming large-scale farmers. To buy the necessities and to pay taxes, they sold hogs, cattle, or furs and hides gained from hunting and trapping. When they did trade, they traveled along the valleys of the region—going to Petersburg in Virginia, or to Philadelphia to the north, or south to Charles Towne and Camden in South Carolina.

North Carolina offered opportunities!

Not everyone came here for a "fresh start." While many people came to North Carolina for an opportunity to own land, provide for a family, and have freedom of worship, others came here against their will. As the population increased in the colony, more enslaved people were brought here. While some enslaved people arrived in North Carolina through its ports, most were brought by settlers from South Carolina and Virginia. North Carolina had a planter class. This class consisted of a group of people who owned large tracts of land (up to 50,000 acres) and between 20 and several hundred enslaved people to work it. Most of these farms were in the tobacco-growing region of the Albemarle and in the Cape Fear area, which was settled by many planters from South Carolina.

Did all the enslaved people come from the same place?

Enslaved people generally came into North Carolina with their owners from Virginia or South Carolina or were bought at markets in those colonies. North Carolina had fewer sales of enslaved people here because of the poor ports. Enslaved people, however, came from many places in West Africa and encompassed many tribes, languages, and cultures. Enslaved people often did not speak the same languages or have the same backgrounds. English became a common language for them here. In the Cape Fear region, their knowledge of growing rice helped make that industry a success for their white owners. Some enslaved people worked the fields during crop-growing seasons and made naval supplies the rest of the year. Children as young as six years old were expected to help with chores and begin their lives of work for others. In addition to agricultural work, there were animals to care for, gardens to tend, clothes to make, cleaning, sewing, candle-making, cooking, and other kinds of work.

While people from different cultural backgrounds were enslaved and brought to America, here they formed a community with shared spirituality and common music traditions as well as common means of resistance. Enslaved people formed communities that helped raise children, cared for the sick, and created meaning through music, celebrations of marriage, and spiritual gatherings. Many also fought their enslaved state, with acts big and small.

Were all people of African descent enslaved?

No, there were some free people of color living here. They tended to be small farmers or craftsmen. Free people of color numbered in the thousands during the colonial period, while the overall number of enslaved people increased in the population. While there were probably around 1,000 enslaved people in North Carolina in the early 1700s, by 1767 there were around 40,000; the general population totaled some 120,000. Most enslaved people were in the lower Cape Fear region of the colony, supporting an area with large-scale farming and naval store production, or in the Albemarle region where tobacco was the main crop. The “Slave Codes” enacted for the colony affected the free people of color as well as those who were enslaved.

What is a Slave Code?

Slave Codes are rules or laws that govern the life of enslaved people in a particular place. In 1715 “An Act Concerning Servants and Slaves” became law. Its provisions banned black-run churches, required enslaved people to have a ticket or white servant with them for travel, required white people to capture enslaved people without tickets, banned interracial marriages, and required freed people to leave the colony. In 1741 a harsher code was enacted, as the enslaved population increased along with white owners’ fears of revolts. Masters could no longer grant freedom; only a county court could do so. Of course, enacting a law and enforcing it are two different things. Enslaved people found ways to gather for fellowship and community, to worship, to hunt, to escape, to protest, and to care for each other despite any laws.

Did anyone make it to the Mountains?

Remember, people had already been living in the mountains for centuries. Archaeologists have traced Cherokee culture back to nearly 500 years before DeSoto first met the tribe in the southern mountains. The Cherokee population declined significantly during the contact period because of displacement and diseases brought by settlers. At the time of the first contact with Europeans, the Cherokee occupied a large area from present-day Virginia through North and South Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky, and into northern Georgia and Alabama. The Cherokee quickly adopted European trade goods like iron pots, steel axes, fruit trees, and livestock.

Throughout the 1700s, the Cherokee battled with their tribal neighbors, including the Catawba and Creek, and with the governments of frontier populations, first with the British colonial and French governments and ultimately with the United States government. The Cherokee frequently shifted alliances to protect their lands and preserve trading relations, but were more inclined to side with the French, who were less interested in land than in trade. The Cherokee, however, often found themselves allied with the English against their traditional tribal enemies in the early 1700s.

In 1730 Sir Alexander Cuming embarked on a mission to secure Cherokee allegiance to the British. Cuming met with several Cherokee chiefs at the Town of Nequassee, where he convinced them to submit to English rule. This first official treaty also established Chief Moytoy of Tellico (Overhill) as emperor and leader of the Cherokee Nation. By midcentury the Cherokee traded regularly with the British out of necessity. However, the Cherokee continued to suffer encroachment of their lands from -**the colonial frontier, leading to intermittent but sustained hostilities. During the latter part of the French and Indian War, the Cherokee sided with the French and attacked English settlements. The English retaliated and soundly defeated the tribe, resulting in the Cherokee losing much of their land in the Blue Ridge foothills. By the eve of the Revolution, European settlement approached the foothills of the Blue Ridge, pushing the Cherokee into a smaller area of land. The Cherokee, however, remained the main occupants of the Mountain region during the colonial period.

Anyone else in the Mountains?

Yes! Toward the end of the colonial period, a few hardy settlers were exploring and moving into the rugged Mountain region. Scots-Irish frontiersmen came first, followed by English and German settlers. Few enslaved people were brought to the region at this time.

BEYOND THE EXHIBITS
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To get a better idea of who settled where, let's summarize!

Population	Description
	Coastal Plain
Tuscarora	The Tuscarora were the largest Indian tribe in eastern North Carolina. They were related by language to the Cherokee in western North Carolina. Following their defeat by the English and other Indian tribes in the Tuscarora War (1711–1713), some remained on a reservation in Bertie County. Most moved to New York to live with the Iroquois.
Other Indian tribes	The Chowanoc, Hatteras, Machapunga, Meherrin, and Waccamaw were among the tribes living in the Coastal Plain at the time of early European exploration. By the end of the colonial period, many of these groups no longer occupied their original lands. Many had died from diseases brought by Europeans. Remnant groups were absorbed into other tribes.
English	The first permanent settlers in North Carolina were the English. English settlers came to North Carolina in search of cheap, fertile land, freedom from religious and political restraint, and new opportunities.
Welsh	A number of people of Welsh origin moved to the lower Cape Fear from Pennsylvania between 1730 and 1734.
Highland Scots	The Highland Scots came to North Carolina to escape political and economic persecution after being defeated by the English in 1746. They settled in the Cape Fear Valley. Most continued to speak their native Gaelic but had sworn allegiance to the king of England.
Swiss and Germans	A group of Swiss and German refugees, who faced religious persecution in their own countries, settled New Bern in 1710.
Africans	Most Africans, brought to the colonies from their homeland and the West Indies, came to North Carolina enslaved or were purchased at slave auctions in other colonies. Some free African Americans lived in the colony.
	Piedmont
Catawba	The Catawba, the largest of the Siouan tribes in the Piedmont, sustained heavy losses from disease after contact with Europeans. Still, they aided the English in the French and Indian War. In 1764 a reservation provided on the North and South Carolina border allowed the Catawba to maintain their land.
Other Indian tribes	The Waxhaw, Keyauwee, Eno, Saura, Tutelo, and Saponi tribes saw their numbers reduced by European contact. These tribes moved to different areas and often joined other tribes to maintain their strength and numbers.
Scots-Irish	In the early 17th century, Lowland Scots settled in Ireland. Later, some moved to the American colonies to seek a better life and greater individual freedom. Between 1735 and 1775, many traveled south down the Great Wagon Road to settle in North Carolina.

Germans	After a series of wars, Germany faced devastated lands and a ruined economy. Germans seeking religious freedom and a safe and stable community life left for the New World. Groups of German Moravians from Pennsylvania moved to North Carolina in the mid-1750s to establish new towns in the backcountry.
English	Coming mostly from the Coastal Plains region, English settlers moved into the backcountry of the Piedmont, often establishing small farms.
Africans	Some settlers brought their slaves with them as they moved into the Piedmont region.
Mountains	
Cherokee	The Cherokee were the largest American Indian tribe in North Carolina. Their population decreased greatly because of disease and war. By 1776 the Cherokee had lost approximately half of their lands to European settlement.
Europeans	Toward the end of the colonial period, a few hardy settlers were exploring and moving into the rugged Mountain region. Scots-Irish frontiersmen came first, followed by English and German settlers. Few slaves were brought to the region at this time.

1760s

This girl from the Piedmont or Western part of the state wears moccasins like the American Indians of the area. Her *short gown* (her top) is held shut with two thorns used as pins. Under her short gown and skirt she wears a *shift,* which helps keep her outer clothes clean during the day and serves as a nightgown, too.

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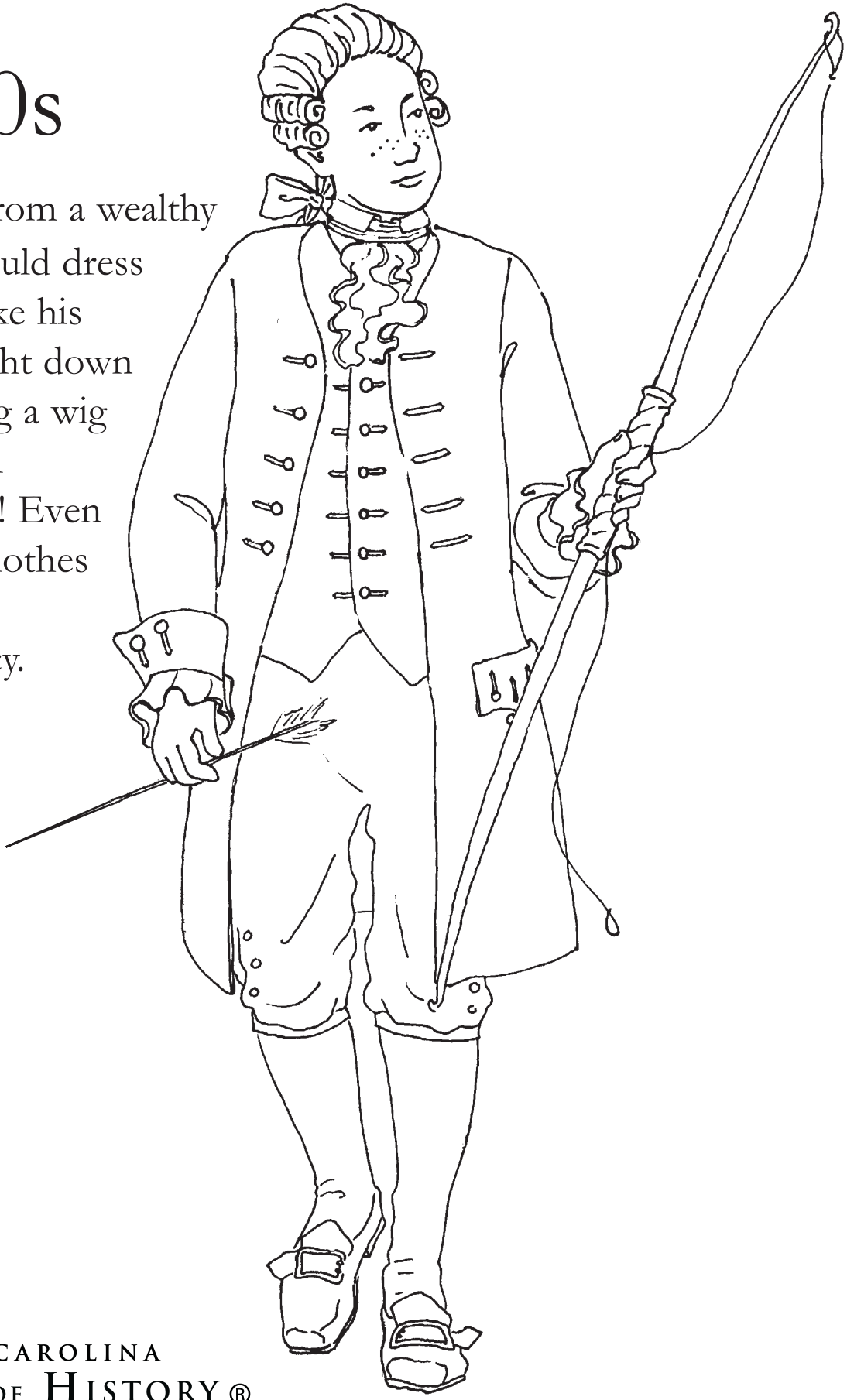
1760s

A boy from a wealthy family would dress and act like his father, right down to wearing a wig on special occasions! Even his play clothes would be quite fancy.



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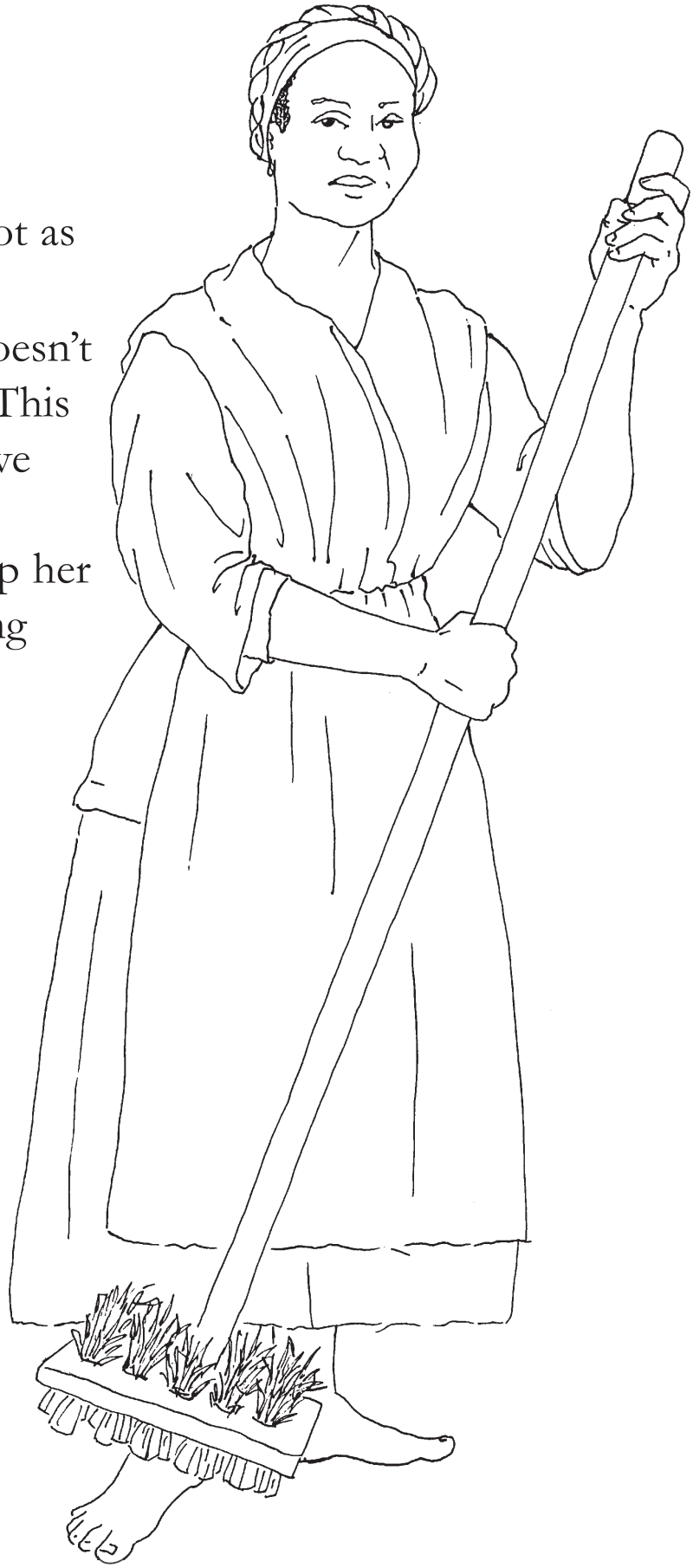
1760s

A work dress is not as wide or as long as a dress-up dress, and doesn't have hoops under it. This makes it easier to move around in. An apron helps this woman keep her skirt clean. She is using a broom with bristles made of corn shucks.



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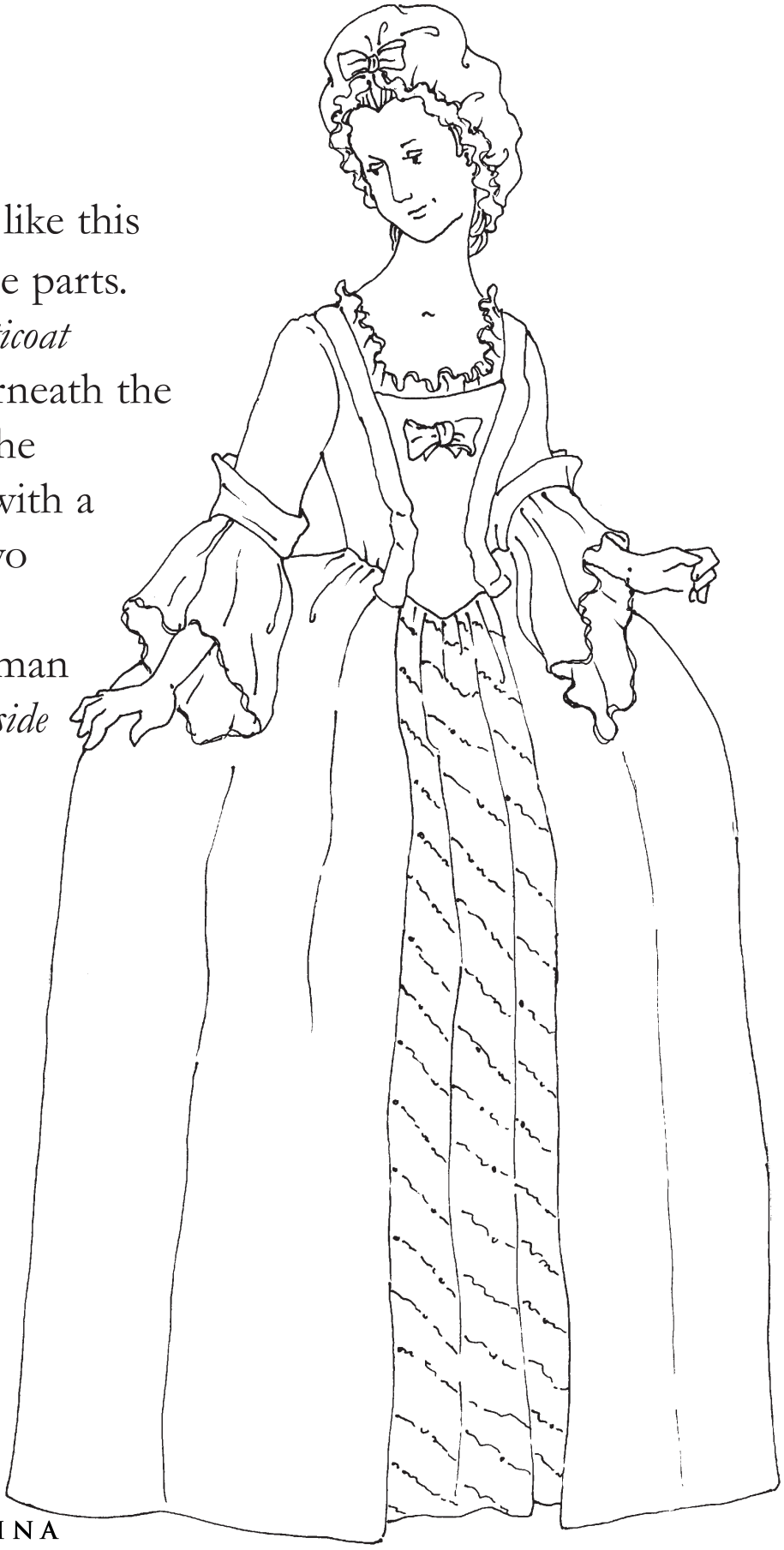
1760s

A fancy dress like this one comes in three parts. The patterned *petticoat* shows from underneath the *robe* or *gown*, and the *stomacher*, topped with a bow, hooks the two sides of the robe together. This woman wears *panniers*, or *side hoops*, cages of wood or metal at her waist that support her dress.

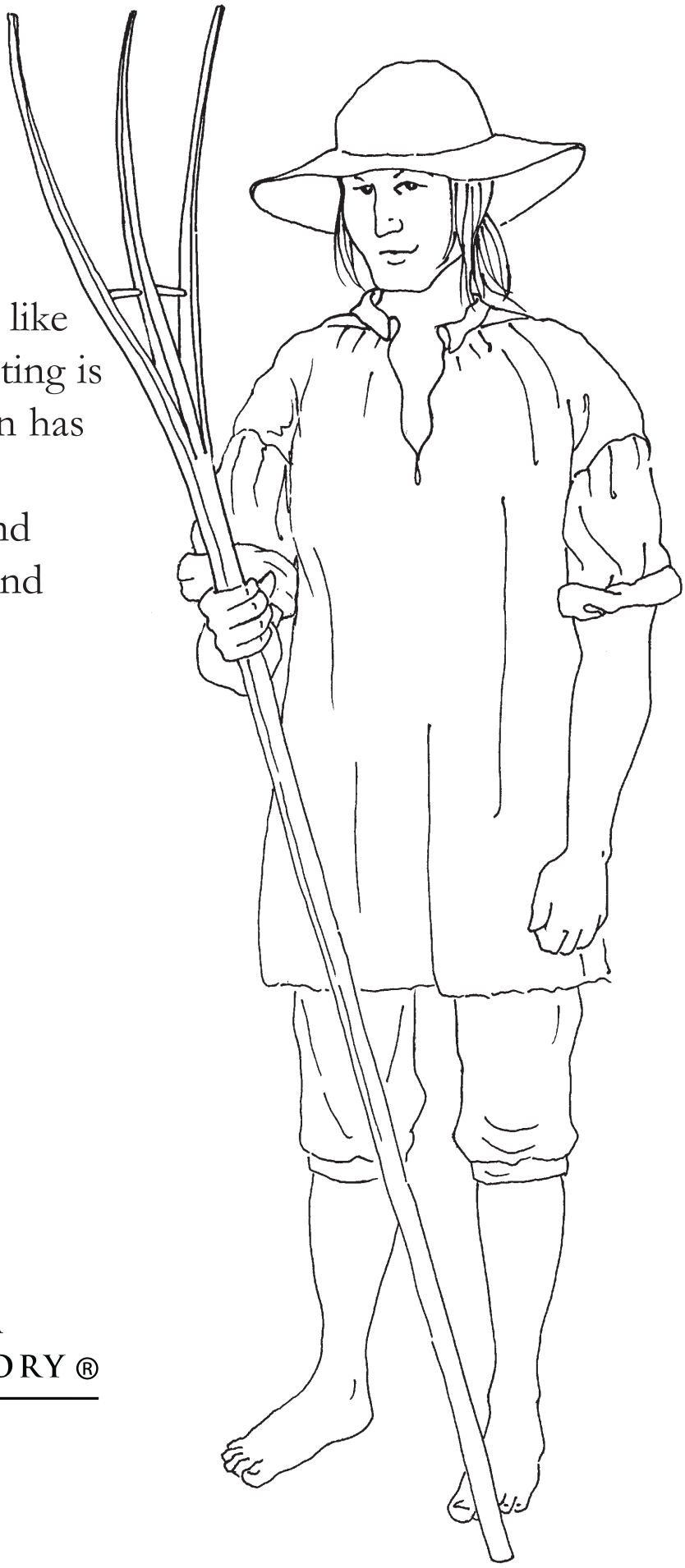


1760s

This Cherokee hunter shows some ways that cultures can meet and mix. He plucks the hair away from his forehead and wears a finger-woven sash and garters, leather leggings, and moccasins. But he also carries a musket and powder horn and wears a European-styled shirt.

1760s

A farmer often makes his own tools, like this hay fork. Harvesting is hot work, so this man has rolled up his sleeves, untucked his shirt, and taken off his shoes and stockings.



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Colonial Pocket

Supplies This craft sheet, markers, scissors, hole punch, yarn

1 Color embroidery design.
2 Cut out pocket front and back.
3 Match pieces up, making sure design on front and words on back face out; punch holes through both pieces at dots.
4 Sew front and back together with piece of yarn about 4 feet long.

POCKET!

Pockets were separate pieces of clothing in colonial times. A woman or girl tied a pocket (a cloth bag) around her waist, beneath her petticoat and skirt. In it she put things like keys, money, and handkerchiefs.

Well-to-do women wore pockets of fine material and sewed fancy designs like this one on them. Poorer women made do with plain pockets of inexpensive fabric.

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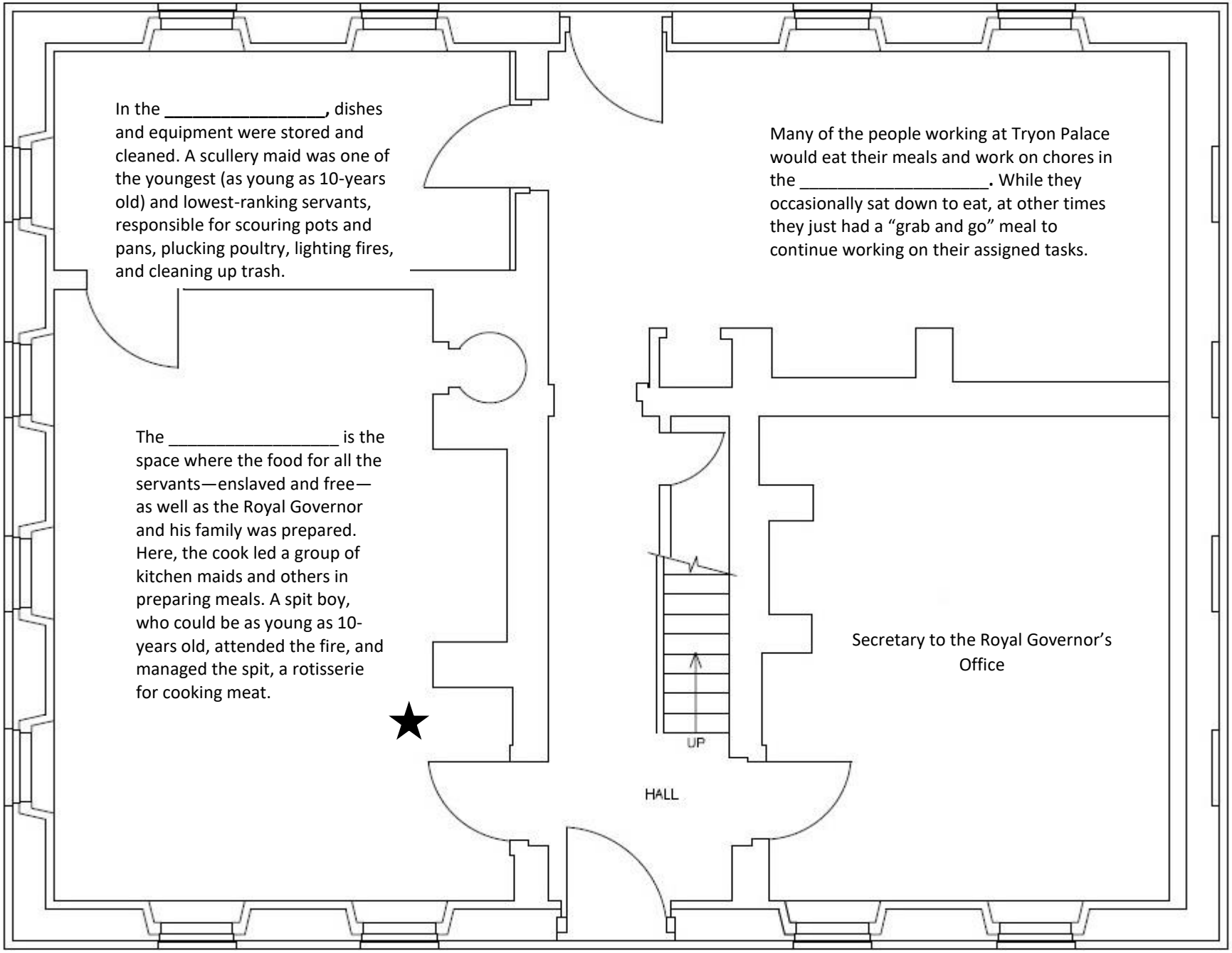
VIPs at Tryon Palace: LIVE!

Explore North Carolina's colonial seat of government by watching "VIPs at Tryon Palace: LIVE!" Follow along with the "upstairs, downstairs" style tour with our watch guide.



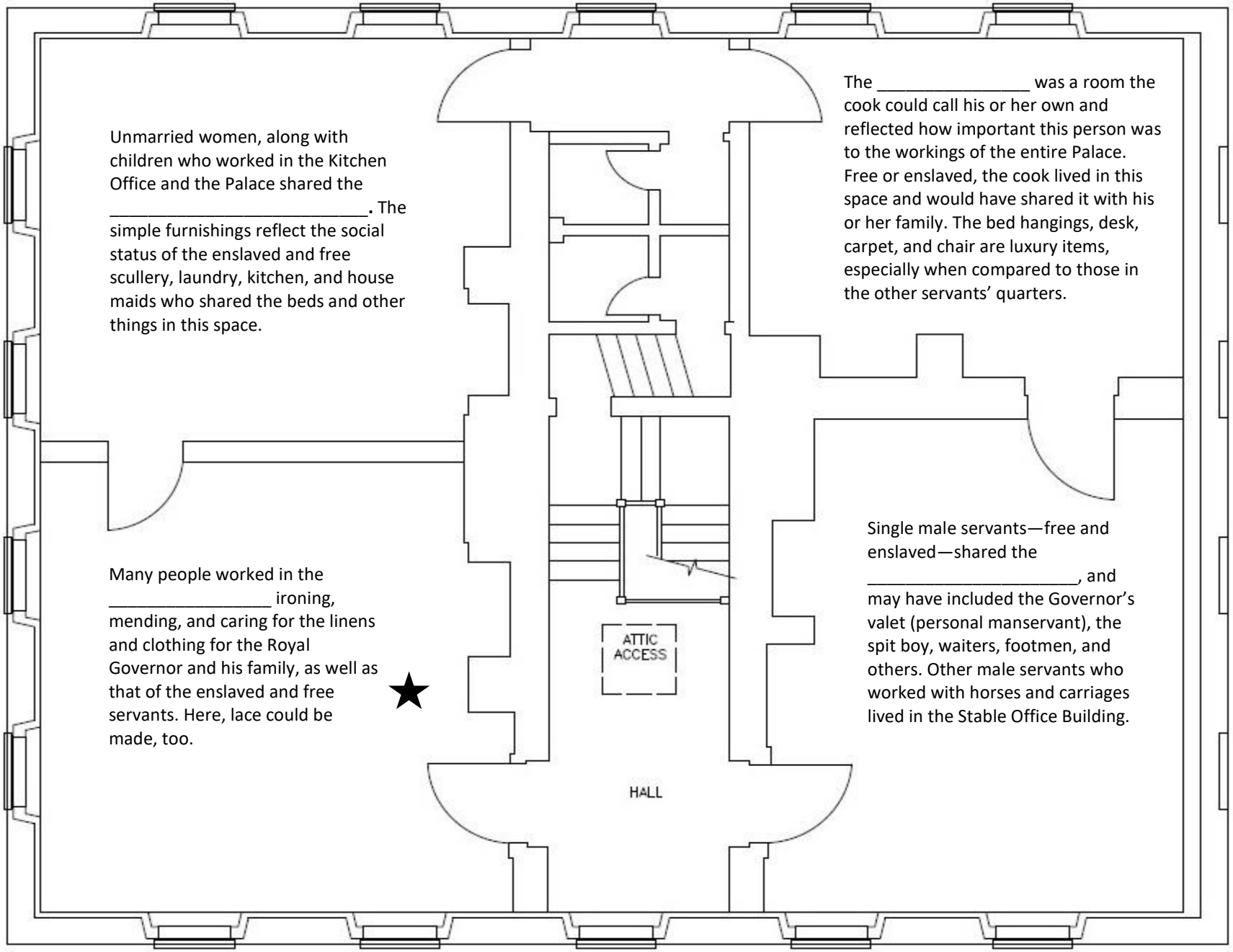
As you learn about the work of free and enslaved servants at Tryon Palace, fill in the names of each room using the word bank below. Start at the ★

Servants' Hall

Hearth Room

Scullery

VIPs at Tryon Palace *LIVE!* Student Activity-KITCHEN HOUSE FIRST FLOOR



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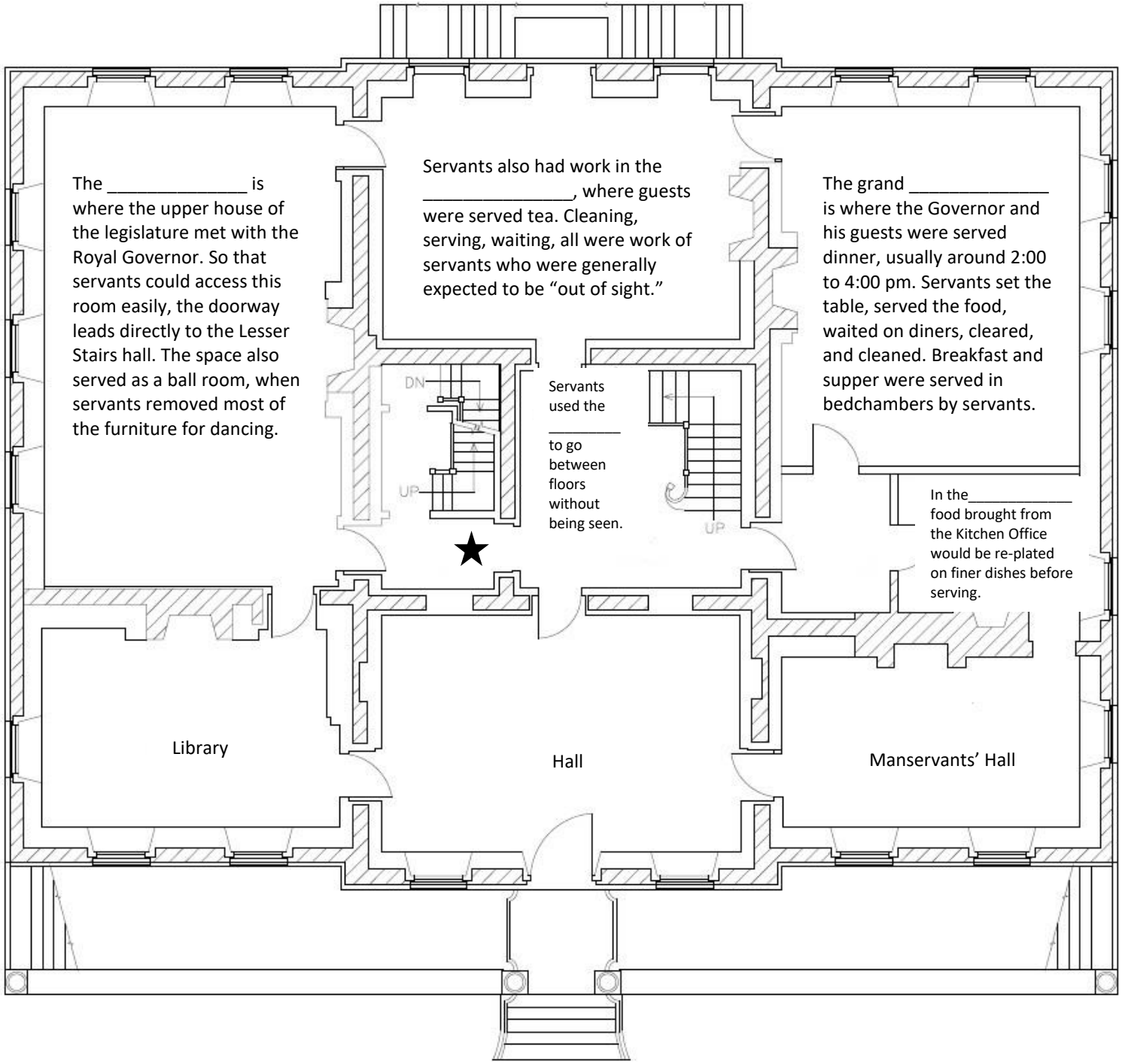
Male Servants' Bedchamber

Dry Laundry

Female Servants' Bedchamber

Cook's Bedchamber

VIPs at Tryon Palace *LIVE!* Student Activity-KITCHEN HOUSE SECOND FLOOR



As you learn about the work of free and enslaved servants at Tryon Palace, fill in the names of each room using the word bank below. Start at the ★

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Council Chamber

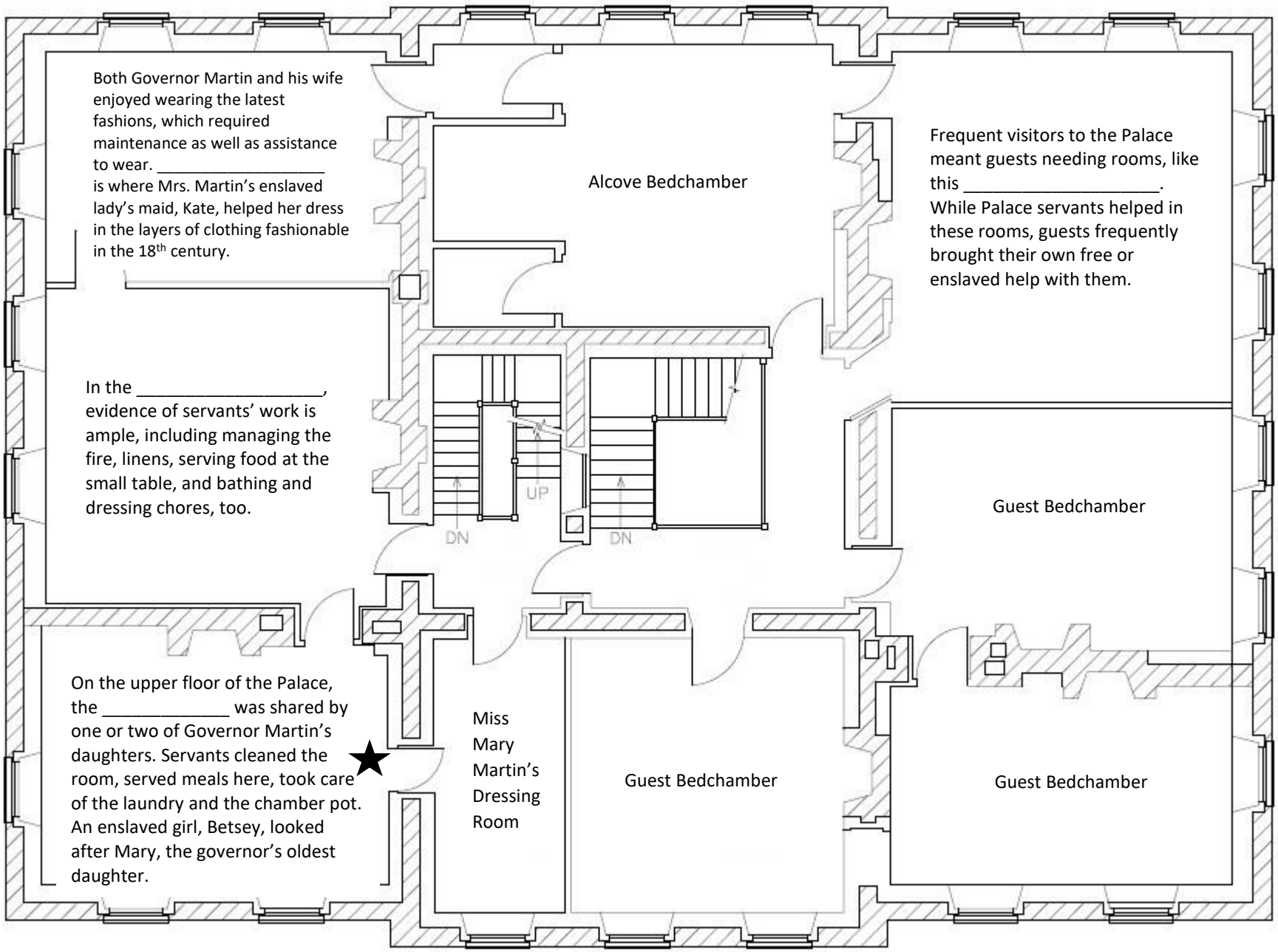
Housekeeper's Office

Drawing Room

Dining Room

Lesser Stairs

VIPs at Tryon Palace *LIVE!* Student Activity-PALACE FIRST FLOOR



As you learn about the work of free and enslaved servants at Tryon Palace, fill in the names of each room using the word bank below. Start at the ★

_____

Guest Bedchamber

Children's Bedchamber

Her Excellency's Dressing Room and Closet

The Governor's Bedchamber

VIPs at Tryon Palace *LIVE!* Student Activity-PALACE SECOND FLOOR